

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

REC'D 23 SEP 2005

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/050102

International filing date (day/month/year)
05.07.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
F16B5/02, B64C1/14

Applicant
BAE SYSTEMS PLC

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/GB2005/050102

Box No. 1 Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/GB2005/050102**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2005/050102

RE. V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:
D1: US-A-3 921 364 (BRILES FRANKLIN S) 25 November 1975
D2: GB-A-1 341 459 (SIMMONDS SA) 19 December 1973
D3: US-A-3 742 584 (MARCOUX A ET AL) 3 July 1973
D4: US-A-4 974 989 (SALTER LARRY) 4 December 1990
D5: US-A-3 304 109 (SCHUSTER MICHAEL M) 14 February 1967
2. The present application according to claim 1 relates to an assembly comprising a fastener, a panel and a supporting structure to which the panel is detachably fastened by the fastener.
Object: To provide a system which is easily detachable and re-alignable.
The above object is achieved by means of the particular configuration of the tapered holes in a non-jamming manner. In view of the comment below under point VIII, 6, it is not possible to define the inventive concept of application at issue and that it is therefore at present not practicable to carry out a full examination. However, it is observed that the subject matter of each of the independent claims appears allowable under Art 33 (2) and (3) PCT since the available prior art documents relate to non-detachable interference fit connections.

RE. VII

3. To meet the requirements of Rule 6.3 PCT the independent claims should be properly cast in a two part form, with those subject-matters which in combination are disclosed in e.g. the prior art document D1 or any more pertinent document being placed in the first part.
4. To increase their intelligibility, the claims should include reference signs in parentheses in accordance with Rule 6.2(b) PCT.
5. To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a) (ii) PCT at least some of the prior art documents D1-D5 should be identified in the description and the relevant background

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International application No.

PCT/GB2005/050102

art therein should be indicated.

RE. VIII

6. The various definitions of the invention given in independent claims 1, 10 and 12 of overlapping scope are such that the claims as a whole are not clear and concise, so that Article 6 PCT is not met. The claims should be recast to include only the minimum necessary number of independent claims in any one category, with dependent claims as appropriate (Rule 6 (4) PCT).
In the present case it is considered appropriate to use only one independent claim in any category.
7. Claims 9, 11 and 13 are defined in terms of references to the drawings. According to Rule 6.2(a) PCT, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here.

Form PCT/ISA/237 (Separate Sheet) (Sheet 2) (EPO-January 2004)